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Webster's II

New College Dictionary



Houghton Mifflin Company
Boston • New York

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> **-van'quish-a-ble** *adj.*
ness *n.*
Fr. advantage, advantage. 1. An superiority. 2. Something, as 3. ADVANTAGE.

in the forefront: **ADVANCED**.
 1. Lacking liveliness, zest, or 2. **ADVANCED**.
 1. **ADVANCED**.

< Lat. *vapor*.] 1. Barely visible s, or smoke, suspended in the exists below its critical tem- pply sufficient pressure. b. under ordinary conditions, is of a substance for use in in- . A mixture of a vapor and air, re burned in an internal- ing insubstantial or fleeting. *rs. Archaic.* a. Exhalations held to affect the mental or nal depression. — **v. -pored**, — **vi.** 1. To emit vapor. 2. To

formation of vapor. — **-fic.** 1. Producing or turn- **VAPOROUS**.
 bombastic talk or behavior. resembling vapor. 2. *Archaic.* **ts.** — **va'por-ish-ness** *n.* **d, -iz-ing, -iz-es.** To con- **por-iz-a-ble** *adj.* — **va'**

vaporizes, esp. a device used

isoline in the fuel line of an s normal flow of fuel.

; to or like vapor. 2. a. Pro- full of vapors. 3. Insubstan- ly fanciful: **HIGH-FLOWN**. **por-ous-ness** *n.* — **va'**

d by a vapor in equilibrium

ar. of **VAPOR**.
 < *vaca*, cow < Lat. *vacca*.]

oth < Lat. *vara*, forked pole and Latin American unit of 09 centimeters, or 32 to 43

) + (RE)ACT(ANCE) + OR.] A is sensitive to the applied tor material and an insula-

of *varius*, various.] A mis-

Tending or apt to vary. b. eviate from an established quantitative value. — **n.** 1. tion. 2. *Astron.* A variable ning any of a set of values. ty. — **var'i-a-bil'i-ty**, **v.** tly with output changes. **-al-rat'**, **var'(-)** *n.* A mort- market rates and changes : of the loan. ss varies due to internal : stars.

ct of varying. b. The qual- **ARIATION**. c. A difference y takes place. 2. A differ- discrepancy between two ling. b. The license to en- ved the zoning *variance*> variations from the mean umber of thermodynamic ibrium of a system, given : differing.

ē be hw which ī pit or oi noise ōō took

var-i-ant (vār'ē-ant, vār'(-)) *adj.* [ME < OFr. < Lat. *variāns*, *variant*, p.p. of *variare*, to vary.] 1. Having or exhibiting variation. 2. Tend- ing or apt to vary: **VARIABLE**. 3. Deviating from a standard, usu. by only a slight difference. — **n.** Something that differs in form only slightly from something else <a spelling *variant*>

var-i-ate (vār'ē-it, -āt', vār'(-)) *n.* [Lat. *variātus*, p.p. of *variare*, to vary.] 1. **VARIABLE**. 2. *Statistics.* A random variable with a numer- ical value defined on a given sample space.

var-i-a-tion (vār'ē-ā-shan, vār'(-)) *n.* 1. a. The act, process, or result of varying. b. The state or fact of being varied. 2. Extent or degree of varying <a variation of 20 pounds in weight> 3. Magnetic declination. 4. Something slightly different from another of the same type. 5. *Biol.* Marked difference or deviation from characteristic form, function, or structure. 6. *Math.* A function that relates the values of one variable to those of other variables. 7. *Mus.* a. A form that is an altered version of a given theme, diverging from it by melodic ornamentation and by changes in harmony, rhythm, or key. b. One of a series of forms based on a single theme. 8. A solo dance, esp. one forming part of a larger work. — **var-i-a-tion-al** *adj.*

var-i- *pref.* var. of **VARICO-**.
var-i-cel-la (vār'ī-sel'ā) *n.* [NLat. < *variola*, *variola*.] Chicken pox. — **var-i-cel-loid'** (-sē'l'oid') *adj.*

var-i-ces (vār'ī-sēz') *n.* pl. of **VARIX**.
var-i-co- or **var-i-** *pref.* [Lat. *varix*, *varic*, *varix*.] *Varix*: varicose vein: **varicosis**

var-i-co-cele (vār'ī-kō-sel') *n.* [VARICO- + -CELE.] A varicose con- dition of veins of the spermatic cord or the ovaries, forming a soft tu- mor.

var-i-col-ored (vār'ī-kūl'ard, vār'(-)) *adj.* **VARIEGATED** 1. **var-i-cose** (vār'ī-kōs') *adj.* [Lat. *varicosus* < *varix*, swollen vein.] 1. Designating blood or lymph vessels that are abnormally dilated, knot- ted, and tortuous. 2. That causes unusual swelling.

var-i-cos-is (vār'ī-kō-sis) *n.* [VARICO- + -OSIS.] **VARICOSITY** 1.

var-i-cos-i-ty (vār'ī-kōs'ī-tē) *n.* pl. **-ties**. 1. The state of being varicose. 2. a. A varicose distention or swelling. b. The condition of having varicose veins.

var-i-cot-o-my (vār'ī-kōt'ō-mē) *n.* pl. **-mies**. [VARICO- + -TOMY.] Surgical removal of varicose veins.

var-i-ed (vār'ēd, vār'(-)) *adj.* 1. Characterized by variety. 2. Modified : altered. 3. **VARIEGATED** 1. — **var-i-ed-ly** *adv.*

var-i-ed thrush *n.* A bird, *Icterus naevius* of western North Amer- ica, similar to the robin but having a black transverse stripe on its breast.

var-i-e-gate (vār'ē-i-gāt', vār'ī-gāt', vār'(-)) *vt.* **-gat-ed**, **-gat-ing**, **-gates**. [Lat. *variare*, *variare* < Lat. *varius*, various.] 1. To change the appearance of, esp. by marking with different colors: **STREAK**. 2. To give variety to. — **var-i-e-ga-tion** (-i-gā'shan, vār'ī-gā', vār'(-)) *n.* — **var-i-e-gat-or** *n.*

var-i-e-gat-ed (vār'ē-i-gā'tid, vār'ī-gā', vār'(-)) *adj.* 1. Having streaks, marks, or patches of a different color or colors. 2. Distin- guished or marked by variety: **DIVERSIFIED**.

var-i-er (vār'ē-er, vār'(-)) *n.* One that varies.

var-i-e-tal (vā-rī'ē-tl) *adj.* [Lat. *variety*.] Of, indicating, or character- izing a variety, esp. a biological variety. — **var-i-e-tal-ly** *adv.*

var-i-e-ty (vā-rī'ē-tē) *n.* pl. **-ties**. [OFr. *variety* < Lat. *varietas* < *varius*, various.] 1. The quality or state of being various or varied : **DIVERSITY**. 2. A number of varied things, esp. of a particular group : **ASSORTMENT <a variety of meats> 3. A group set off from other groups by a particular characteristic or set of characteristics. 4. *Biol.* a. A taxonomic category forming a subdivision of a species and consist- ing of naturally occurring or selectively bred individuals with varying characteristics. b. An organism, esp. a plant, belonging to such a cat- egory. 5. A variety show.**

variety meat *n.* Meat, as liver or sweetbreads, that has been taken from a part other than skeletal muscles or that has been processed, as sausage.

variety show *n.* A theatrical entertainment consisting of suc- cessive unrelated acts, as songs, dances, and comedy skits.

variety store *n.* A retail store selling varied goods.

var-i-form (vār'ā-fōrm', vār'(-)) *adj.* [VARIO- + -FORM.] Having a variety or diversity of forms.

var-i-o- or **var-i-** *pref.* [Lat. *varius*, speckled.] *Variety*: difference : variation < *variometer*>

var-i-o-la (vā-rī'ō-lā, vār'ē-ō'lā, vār'(-)) *n.* [NLat. < Med. Lat., pus- tule < Lat. *varius*, speckled.] Smallpox.

var-i-o-late (vār'ē-ō-lāt', vār'(-)) *adj.* Having pustules or marks re- sembling those of smallpox. — **vt.** **-lat-ed**, **-lat-ing**, **-lates**. To in- oculate with smallpox vaccine.

var-i-o-lite (vār'ē-ō-lit', vār'(-)) *n.* A basic rock having a pock- marked appearance due to many rounded, white spherules embedded in it.

var-i-o-loid (vār'ē-ō-loid', vār'(-), vā-rī'ō-loid') *n.* A mild smallpox in persons who have previously been vaccinated or who have had the disease before.

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var-i-om-e-ter (vār'ē-ōm'ī-tēr, vār'(-)) *n.* A variable inductor for measuring variations in terrestrial magnetism.

var-i-o-rum (vār'ē-ōr'ēm, -ōr', vār'(-)) *n.* [Lat. *(editio cum notis)* *variorum*, (edition with the notes) of various persons.] 1. An edition of the works of an author, with notes by scholars or editors. 2. An edition containing various versions of a text. — **var-i-o-rum** *adj.*

var-i-ous (vār'ē-ās, vār'(-)) *adj.* [Lat. *varius*.] 1. a. Of diverse kinds <for various purposes> b. Unlike: different. 2. More than one: sev- eral <studied various books on antiques> 3. Versatile: many-sided <people of various talents> 4. Having a variegated nature or appear- ance. 5. Being an individual or separate member of a class or group <The various accounts all differed> 6. *Archaic*: Changeable: varia- ble. **usage**: The use of *various* as a collective noun followed by *of* (*various of the members*) is unacceptable in standard English: — **var-i-ous-ly** *adv.* — **var-i-ous-ness** *n.*

var-i-sized (vār'ī-sīzd', vār'(-)) *adj.* Of varying sizes.

var-ix (vār'īks) *n.* pl. **var-i-ces** (vār'ī-sēz') [Lat., swollen vein.] 1. An abnormally twisted and dilated vein, artery, or lymph vessel. 2. One of the longitudinal ridges indicating a resting stage in the devel- opment of the lip of a gastropod shell.

var-let (vār'īt) *n.* [ME < OFr., var. of *vaslet*. — see **VALET**.] *Archaic*. 1. An attendant or servant. 2. A knight's page. 3. A rascal: knave.

var-let-ry (vār'īt-rē) *n.* *Archaic*. A crowd of attendants or menials; esp. when disorderly: **RABBLE**.

var-mint (vār'mint) *n.* [Var. of *vermin*.] *Informal*. 1. A bird or ani- mal regarded as undesirable or troublesome. 2. An obnoxious, con- temptible person.

var-nish (vār'nish) *n.* [ME *vernissh* < OFr. *vernis* < Med. Lat. *veronix*, sandarac resin, prob. < Gk. *Bereikē*, Berenice, a city in Cyr- enaica.] 1. An oil-based paint with a solvent and an oxidizing or an evaporating binder in it for coating a surface with a hard, glossy, thin film. 2. a. The smooth coating or gloss produced by applying varnish. b. Something resembling or suggestive of varnish. 3. A deceptively attractive external appearance. — **vt.** **-nished**, **-nishing**, **-nishes**. 1. To cover with varnish. 2. To give a smooth and glossy finish to. 3. To give a deceptively attractive appearance to. — **var-nish-er** *n.* **varnish tree** *n.* Any of several trees with milky juice for making varnish.

var-si-ty (vār'sī-tē) *n.* pl. **-ties**. [Alteration of *UNIVERSITY*.] 1. The principal team representing a university, college, or school in sports or other competitions. 2. *Chiefly Brit.* A university.

Var-u-na (vār'ā-nā) *n.* [Skt. *Varuṇa*.] *Myth.* The Vedic god of the skies and seas.

var-us (vār'ās, vār'(-)) *n.* pl. **-us-es**. [Lat., crooked.] Abnormal pos- itioning of a leg or foot bone.

varve (vārv) *n.* [Swed. *varv*, layer < *varva*, to bend < ON *hverfa*.] 1. A sedimentary layer deposited in one year. 2. A pair of distinct layers of sediment, indicating seasonal deposits.

var-y (vār'ē, vār'(-)) *v.* **-ied**, **-ying**, **-ies**. [ME *varien*, to undergo change < OFr. *varier* < Lat. *variare* < *varius*, various.] — **vt.** 1. To make or produce changes in attributes or characteristics: **MODIFY**. 2. To make varied <a song recital that was varied for all tastes> 3. To express in a different manner <vary the speed> — **vi.** 1. To undergo or exhibit change <Precipitation varied throughout the year> 2. To be different: **DEVIATE** <vary from customary styles of dress> 3. To undergo successive or alternate changes in qualities or attributes. — **var-y-ing-ly** *adv.*

varying hare *n.* The snowshoe rabbit.

vas (vās) *n.* pl. **va-sa** (vā'zā) [NLat. < Lat., vessel.] An organic vessel or duct.

vas- *pref.* var. of **VASO-**.

va-sa (vā'zā) *n.* pl. of **VAS**.

vas-cu-la (vās'kyā-lā) *n.* pl. of **VASCULUM**.

vas-cu-lar (vās'kyā-lār) *adj.* [Lat. *vasculum*, dim. of *vas*, vessel.] 1. *Biol.* Of, typified by, or having vessels for transmission or circula- tion of plant or animal fluids as blood, lymph, or sap. 2. Marked by vigor and ardor: **PASSIONATE**. — **vas-cu-lar'i-ty** (-lār'ī-tē) *n.*

vascular bundle *n.* A strand of supportive and conductive plant tissue composed essentially of xylem and phloem.

vas-cu-lar-i-za-tion (vās'kyā-lār-i-zā'shan) *n.* New blood-vessel formation.

vascular plant *n.* Any of various plants of the division *Tracheo- phyta*, which includes the ferns and seed-bearing plants typified by a system of specialized conductive and supportive tissue.

vascular tissue *n.* Plant tissue made up of vascular bundles.

vas-cu-lature (vās'kyā-lā-choōr', -chār) *n.* Arrangement of blood vessels in the body or in a bodily organ or part.

vas-cu-lum (vās'kyā-lām) *n.* pl. **-la** (-lā) [Lat., small vessel. — see **VASCULAR**.] A small box or case for carrying newly gathered plant spec- imens.

vas defer-ens (vās' dēf'ēr-enz, -rēnz') *n.* pl. **va-sa def-er-ent-ia** (vā'zā dēf'ēr-ēn'shē-ā) [NLat., deferent vessel.] The verte- brate duct that carries sperm from the epididymal duct to the ejaculatory duct.

vase (vās, vāz, vāz) *n.* [Fr. < Lat. *vas*, vessel.] An open container for holding flowers or for decoration.

va-sec-to-my (vā-sēk'tō-mē, vā-zēk'tō-mē) *n.* pl. **-mies**. Surgical ex- cision of a part of the *vas deferens*, used as a method of sterilization.

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